THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The balance of trade position of India's foreign trade for the first 4 months of the current financial year (April-July, 1985) for which provisional data are available is as below:-

(Value in Rs. crores)

	April-July, 1985 (Provisional)
Exports	2942.04
Imports	6021.12
Balance of trade	3079.08

The statistics on the balance of payments are available only upto 1982-83 for the full year. However, the general trend in the balance of pament situation can *inter-alia* also be gauged from the movement in the foreign exchange reserves. The latest data on reserves (excluding gold and SDRs) relates to the week ended 1st November, 1985 when it stood at Rs. 6788.61 crores as against 6816.76 cores on 31st March, 1985.

(b) and (c) Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for 'nighr value realisation. Efforts would be made to gear up these measures further during the Seventh Plan period.

The current import-export policy which will be operative for a 3 year period, 1985-88, is designed to introduce an environment of continuity and stability in trade policies. It aims at providing a major thrust towards increased production, both for domestic consumption and exports, and to bring about efficient import substitution. The Government have also decided to select thrust sectors for export promotion which would make a substantial contribution to growth in exports over the medium terms. Public Sector Undertakings are being involved for greater participation in export efforts. Simultaneous efforts are also being made to step up our indigenous production of importables during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Safety measures in factories

300. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what fresh steps have been taken by Government to improve safety measures in the factories and how these have proved effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): Central Government had advised the State Government to strengthen the factory inspectorate and update the State Factory rules so that the safety provisions under the Factories Act, 1984 are effectively enforced. Selected State Factory Inspectors have also been given special training on Industrial Hygiene and major hazard control measures. The Factories Act is being reviewed and certain specific provisions are being considered for stringent safety standards in hazardous units.

Compulsorily retirement of Income Tax Commissioners

301. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a list of Income Tax Commissioners who are to be retired compulsorily as a part of the drive to cleanse the Department; if so, what is their number and by what time they will be retired and whether a list of Income-tax Officers is also being drawn up for their being weeded out;

(b) how many Income Tax Commissioners have retired voluntarily;

(c) what action is contemplated against corrupt Assistant Income Tax Commisioners below the age of 50; and